



1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Private Jonathan L. Gifford of Decatur was killed  
3 in action while serving with the United States Marine Corps in  
4 Iraq on March 23, 2003; and

5 WHEREAS, Jonathan L. Gifford graduated from Stephen  
6 Decatur High School in 1991 and joined the Marines in 2001; and

7 WHEREAS, Pvt. Gifford was assigned to the 1st Battalion,  
8 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, Camp  
9 Lejeune, N.C.; he was killed in combat while his unit worked to  
10 secure bridges on the outskirts of Nasiriyah, Iraq; and

11 WHEREAS, Pvt. Gifford was listed as missing until April 14,  
12 2003, when the Department of Defense announced that his remains  
13 had been identified; and

14 WHEREAS, Pvt. Gifford was 30 years old at the time of his  
15 death and was survived by his daughter, Lexie; and

16 WHEREAS, Pvt. Gifford's mother, Vicky Langley, said "I'm  
17 very proud of him" for his willingness to fight for the Iraqi  
18 people; and

19 WHEREAS, Illinois Business Route 51 runs through Decatur;  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
23 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the portion of Illinois Business  
24 Route 51 that runs through Decatur be named the Jonathan L.  
25 Gifford Memorial Highway; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Illinois Department of Transportation  
27 is requested to erect, at suitable locations consistent with

1 State and federal regulations, appropriate plaques or signs  
2 giving notice of the name; and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
4 presented to Lexie Gifford and Vicky Langley and be delivered  
5 to the Mayor of Decatur and the Illinois Secretary of  
6 Transportation.